



Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program Update

April 2014

ESIT Staff Update: Debi Donelan, MSSA, was hired as the new ESIT Program Consultant. Debi will be working with Kathy Blodgett as Kathy prepares to retire in June. Debi has seven years of experience providing both service coordination and early intervention direct services in Ohio. Her special interests include the Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach to early intervention services; Autism, Responsive Teaching, and the PLAY Project; Sibshops and sibling concerns; and early childhood mental health. She will be assuming the majority of Kathy's Program Consultant duties. Debi can be reached at debra.donelan@del.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 725-4400. Welcome to Washington, Debi!

Changes to ESIT Program Consultants' county assignments are:

- Kathy Grant Davis will continue to work in her assigned counties and add Spokane and F/S/PO counties, Snohomish County has been reassigned to Debi Donelan
- Sheila Ammons will continue to work in her assigned counties and adds Kittitas County
- Debbie will continue to work in Kathy Blodgett's remaining counties and adds Snohomish County

Annual Performance Report and Federal Funding Application Process: The Annual Performance Report (APR), was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in February, 2014. ESIT applied for FFY 2014 funding in mid-April. The ESIT federal allocation will not be affected by sequestration for the FFY 14 year. We anticipate a slight increase in Part C funding for the coming year.

ESIT General Supervision and Monitoring: As part of the new Results Driven Accountability (RDA) framework that the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has developed, ESIT is beginning a new strategic planning process. A new Annual Performance Report Indicator, known as the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), APR Indicator 11, creates the framework for implementing this new indicator. The SSIP reflects the new RDA process that is intended to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities by moving the focus for our work beyond meeting compliance requirements. In order to improve results, an emphasis on implementing evidence-based practices will be required that will include the identification of a focus area for improvement. The SSIP is a multi-year plan that must be developed in phases. Phase I must be completed and submitted to OSEP in the February 2015 APR. ESIT is currently forming a SSIP Leadership Team who will help in leading the SSIP work. Phase I activities will focus on analyzing data and the infrastructure that will be needed in order to identify, select and implement a focus area for improvement. Phase I activities will also include the formation of a larger stakeholder group who will also provide input to the plan. ESIT will use a portion of the Local Lead Agency meetings scheduled for May 21 and May 28 to convene a large facilitated SSIP stakeholder meeting for the purpose of presenting work accomplished to date and to continue an analysis of outcome data and infrastructure needs.

ESIT Annual Data Collection/Monitoring Process: The annual January – March compliance monitoring/data collection ended March 31st. ESIT is currently working with each LLA to verify local data is valid and reliable. Data Management System (DMS) census data will be taken for compliance monitoring purposes by May 2, 2014. Based on data results, findings of non-compliance notification letters need to be sent to LLAs by August 2, 2014. LLA determination status notification letters are made as soon as possible after findings letters have been sent.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC): Work continues on the development of WAC for the ESIT program. The WAC will govern the provision of IDEA, Part C early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers in Washington. ESIT continues to work with DEL rule-writing staff to ensure the WACs are aligned with DEL WAC rule-writing policies and procedures. Additional information on the rule-writing process is available on the DEL website at: <http://www.del.wa.gov/laws/development>.

Data Management System Update: DMS information on system updates and enhancements is provided through the DMS listserv: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=DEL-ESIT-DMS-NEWS>. Users are encouraged to sign up to receive the most up-to-date news.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC):

1. SICC Recruitment: Contact Linda Jennings at (360) 725-3514 or email Linda.Jennings@del.wa.gov for more information.
2. SICC Committees meet at various times and locations throughout the state. If you are interested in joining a SICC committee, please contact Linda or the following staff assigned:
 - ❖ Data: Bob Morris, Bob.Morris@del.wa.gov (360) 725-3507
 - ❖ Family Leadership and Involvement Committee, Public Policy: Debbie Jackson, debra.jackson@del.wa.gov (360) 725-4413
 - ❖ Funding: Karen Walker, Karen.Walker@del.wa.gov (360) 725-3516
 - ❖ Personnel and Training: Kathy Grant-Davis, Kathryn.grant-davis@del.wa.gov (360) 725-3519

FRC Training: Year 2 FRC training will be held May 22, 2014, via the K-20 video system. The next Professional Learning Community (PLC) training will be held June 3, 2014. The PLC topic is **Evidence Based Service Models and Transitions**.

IECC Conference: The annual Infant and Early Childhood Conference will be held May 7, 8 and 9 at the Tacoma Convention Center. Online registration is still open at the IECC website: www.ieccwa.org. Parent scholarship selections were made in early April and participants have been notified. Debbie Jackson, ESIT Parent Participation Coordinator, is coordinating this effort. She can be reached at debra.jackson@del.wa.gov or 360-725-4413. ESIT would like to thank many Local Lead Agencies (LLAs) who have also contributed funding to allow more parents to attend the IECC.